

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 0747

FOR KUX FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCON, PFOR, NP, US
SUBJECT: BRIEFING MATERIALS FOR CORONATION DELEGATION

REF: STATE 030224

1. THE BASIC OUTLINE OF YOUR BRIEFING BOOK SEEMS FINE. I
WOULD SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT UNDER ITEM (C) SPECIAL TOPICS YOU
INCLUDE BACKGROUND DISCUSSION OF NARCOTICS, KOREA AND U.S.
POLICY TOWARDS INDIA AND CHINA.

2. CAMBODIA & KOREA. WITH RESPECT TO CAMBODIA I DO NOT BELIEVE
THAT IT WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE FOR OUR DELEGATION TO RAISE THIS
ISSUE FORMALLY DESPITE THE EARLIER SUGGESTION OF CHIRAN THAPA
THAT THE CORONATION MIGHT BE AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO REVIEW
THIS ISSUE. IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT THERE WILL BE ANY FORMAL
OCCASION FOR A DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL ISSUES WITH THE KING.
DISCUSSIONS AT ANY OTHER LEVEL ARE UNLIKELY TO BE PRODUCTIVE
GIVEN THE STRONG PERSONAL COMMITMENT OF THE KING TO PRINCE
SIHANOUK. HOWEVER, SHOULD THE MATTER OF NEPAL'S ROLE IN THE
UN COME UP IN DISCUSSIONS WITH OUR REPRESENTATIVES, I WOULD
SUGGEST THAT THEY DO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN
AT THE PRO-SIHANOUK STANCE OF THE GON DURING THE LAST UNGA. AT
THE SAME TIME, THEY SHOULD ALSO INDICATE THEIR AWARENESS OF THE
POSITIVE GON ACTION ON KOREA WHERE THE NEPALESE LAST MINUTE
CHANGE OF POSITION WAS IMPORTANT IN MAKING OUR EFFORTS SUCCESSFUL.

3. SIKKIM. THIS IS ALSO NOT A SUBJECT WHICH WE SHOULD INITIATE
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WITH THE NEPALESE, ALTHOUGHT IT IS LIKELY THAT THEY WILL MENTION

IT TO OUR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR DETERIORATING RELATIONS WITH INDIA. I SUGGEST WE AVOID DISCUSSION OF THE MERITS OF THE SIKKIM ISSUE AND CONFINE OURSELVES TO STATEMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT WE CONSIDER OURSELVES FRIENDS OF BOTH INDIA AND NEPAL AND HOPE THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES.

4. NARCOTICS. AS IN THE CASE OF CAMBODIA, THIS IS A SUBJECT WHICH WE HAVE COVERED EXTENSIVELY AT ALL LEVELS OF THE GON. DECISIONS ON THIS MATTER, PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATING TO LEGISLATION, ARE TAKEN BY THE KING. SHOULD NEPALESE OFFICIALS RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH US, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR OUR DELEGATION TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE WHICH WE ATTACH TO THE ENACTMENT OF EFFECTIVE LEGISLATION IN NEPAL DESIGNED TO CONTROL THE INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING IN NARCOTICS. WE SHOULD ALSO INDICATE OUR SUPPORT FOR THE UN'S EFFORTS IN NEPAL RELATING TO NARCOTICS ENACTMENT, NOTING THE TRAINING WE HAVE PROVIDED TO NEPALESE OFFICERS IN THE U.S. WE SHOULD AVOID ANY IMPLICATION THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO A BILATERAL PROGRAM OF CROP SUBSTITUTION FOR THE HASH PRESENTLY GROWN IN NEPAL.

5. RELATIONS WITH INDIA. BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND IN KATHMANDU SENIOR NEPALESE OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT OUR IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH INDIA MAY BE TO THE DETRIMENT OF OUR RELATIONS WITH NEPAL. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT DELEGATION MEMBERS WILL BE TOLD THAT THE U.S. IS LOSING INTEREST IN NEPAL. SHOULD THIS BE SAID, OUR DELEGATION SHOULD BE PREPARED TO RESPOND BY CITING OUR ONGOING PROGRAMS AND RESOURCE COMMITMENTS AND BY STRESSING THAT OUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH INDIA DO NOT IMPLY ANY DIMINISHED CONCERN FOR NEPAL'S INDEPENDENT NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. THE ATHERTON STATEMENT CAN BE USEFULLY CITED IN THIS REGARD. OUR RELATIONS WITH THE GON ARE BASED ON MUTUALLY PRODUCTIVE BILATERAL INTERESTS AND ARE NOT CONDITIONED EITHER BY OUR RELATIONS WITH CHINA OR INDIA.

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